



ILLINOIS
Department
on Aging

Network NEWS

Spring 2001



Officially launching the B*SAFE program with a press conference at BankIllinois in Champaign are (left to right) **Susan Rothermel**, Vice President of Busey Bank, Urbana; **Colleen Pihl**, Senior Vice President of Strategic Capital Bank, Champaign; **Debbie Jenison**, Director of Communications at the Illinois Bankers Association; **Van Dukeman**, President of BankIllinois; and **Margo E. Schreiber**, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging.

B*SAFE Partnership Launched

The Bankers and Seniors Against Financial Exploitation (B*SAFE) program, which aggressively combats financial exploitation of older Illinoisans, was officially launched March 23rd at BankIllinois in Champaign.

"B*SAFE represents a public-private partnership that will help banks protect elderly Illinoisans from being financially exploited," said Margo E.

B*SAFE continued on page 5 ➤

Governor Ryan Reappoints Director Schreiber

Margo E. Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, was reappointed by Governor George H. Ryan to her role as his ambassador to the state's nearly two million seniors, a position to which she was also recently and unanimously reconfirmed by the Illinois Senate.

Schreiber was first appointed to the position by the Governor in January, 1999, and reconfirmed by the Senate earlier this month.

Reappoints continued on page 2 ➤

The MANY FACES OF AGING



Older Americans Month: May, 2001

The theme selected by the Administration on Aging is, "The Many Faces of Aging." The theme acknowledges the promise and challenges posed by our rapidly increasing multi-cultural and multi-generational aging population.

According to the Administration, "Recognition of and responsiveness to the growing diversity of our aging population has been a priority in the Administration on

OAM continued on page 3 ➤

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for your input into how we can best serve family caregivers through the new National Family Caregiver Support Program. We are all so proud to be in a better position to help caregivers.

As you know, the recent reauthorization of the Older Americans Act created the program, under which Illinois is receiving \$4.7 million to help family caregivers with information, assistance, and supportive services such as respite.

The Illinois Department on Aging's caregiver committee is working on information and training tools, and Area Agencies are busy planning how to implement the program locally, requesting input from community based organizations and determining service priorities.

The caregiver initiative is one that crosscuts every aspect of the Illinois Department on Aging and

the Aging Network. We are so eager to respond to the needs of family caregivers, because we **know them** personally and professionally.

We have seen, heard from and listened to family members as they have struggled with their challenges, and we empathize with them and their loved ones.

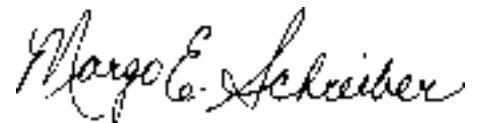
Studies indicate that about 25 percent of people across the country are caring for a senior - their spouse, parent or other relative. These caregivers provide

unpaid help, which, if it were to be replaced by paid home care, could cost up to \$94 billion a year!

The degree of caregiver involvement has remained fairly constant, demonstrating the resilience of the American family in taking care of elderly family members despite increased numbers of working women and family mobility.

Now, of course, is our chance to reach out to help caregivers with a helping hand. As we continue meeting and talking about the initiative, I thank you for your hard work and heartfelt interest in strengthening support for caregivers.

Very truly yours,



Margo E. Schreiber, Director



➤ Reappoints *continued . . .*

One of the highlights of Schreiber's tenure has been the recent expansion of the state's Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance program, which helps more Illinois seniors pay for prescription medications. The Department is responsible for educating seniors about the benefits, which are administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

"I will continue to increase the visibility of the

Department to make seniors and their families more aware of all the programs and services that maximize their independence and quality of life," Schreiber said. "In the next two years, the Department will also focus heavily on supporting family caregivers, who provide care for frail and chronically ill relatives and are often the deciding factor in whether a loved one can remain at home or must enter a nursing home." ✚

➤ **OAM** *continued . . .*

Aging. We know that minority older Americans are expected to represent 25 percent of the U.S. population in 2030. By the middle of the 21st century, every third person will be from a minority group. In addition, the unique differences among our aging population compel us to attend to how we might best serve a myriad of unique ethnic, cultural, inter- and intra-generational, geographic and gender-specific interests and needs.”

Older Americans Month has been observed since 1963. ✧



2001 Older
Americans
Month

Eighth Annual National Health and Fitness Day Set

National Senior Health and Fitness Day will be held throughout the country May 30, 2001, in celebration of Older Americans Month. More than 150,000 older adults are expected to participate in local fitness activities.



Organized as a public/private good health partnership by the Mature Market Resource Center, Senior Health and Fitness Day offers activities at more than 1,500 locations including hospitals, park and recreation departments, senior centers, health clubs, retirement communities and other locations.

Interested organizations must register to host a National Senior Health and Fitness Event. Registration fee is \$36.95 and includes a program manual and sample of items such as t-shirts, balloons, etc.

For more information, call Tina Godin or Pat Henze at 1-800-828-8225 weekdays or e-mail them at fitnessday@aol.com. Web site address is www.fitnessday.com. ✧

Senior Celebration

The Central Illinois Senior Celebration will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 9, 2001 in the Orr Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The event features more than 50 exhibitors and numerous health screenings. Admission, parking, entertainment and refreshments will be featured at no charge.

Sponsoring agencies include the Illinois Department on Aging, Illinois Department of Insurance, Illinois Secretary of State, Project LIFE Area Agency on Agency, St. John's Hospital, Memorial Medical Center, Senior Services of Central Illinois, Springfield Housing Authority, Sigma Phi Omega – ETA Chapter, University of Illinois at Springfield, and the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service.

For more information, call Project LIFE at 217-787-9234. ✧

54th Annual Scientific Meeting of Gerontological Society Set

The Gerontological Society of America, since it was founded in 1945, has promoted the scientific study of aging and hosts the oldest and largest gathering devoted to gerontology. The next gathering, the **54th Annual Scientific Meeting**, will be held November 15-18, 2001 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers and The Palmer House in Chicago.

The theme of this year's meeting is "2001 – A Gerontological Odyssey: Exploring Science, Society and Spirituality." With approximately 3,500 participants, the meeting will offer over 350 sessions in four tracks (biological sciences, clinical medicine, behavioral and social sciences, and social research, policy and practice), over 100 exhibits, continuing education credits, and in-depth workshops.

For more information about the meeting or for a copy of the preliminary program, call 202-842-1275 or contact The Gerontological Society of America at geron@geron.org. Updated information may be found at www.geron.org. ✧

"Unique Achievers" Honored

In celebration of Older Americans Month, the Illinois Department on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging will present "Unique Achievement Awards" to the following winners on May 23, 2001, at the Illinois State Museum.

Bradley University College of Education and Health Sciences Department of Educational Leadership and Human Development (Peoria), nominated by Central Illinois Agency on Aging for outstanding community-based counseling services to caregivers.

Barbara Harris (Beaverville), nominated by East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Harris is the Family Development Specialist at Willow Estates Community Center and supervises the senior nutrition program, makes daily telephone reassurance calls, conducts outreach and helps families apply for energy assistance and more.

Caregiver Interfaith Volunteer Services (Springfield), nominated by Project LIFE Area Agency on Aging. CIVS was organized five years ago by Third Age Living of St. John's Hospital and has experienced tremendous growth. Volunteers provide transportation, errand running, friendly visits, home repair and maintenance, respite care and more.

Metropolitan Family Services – Senior Respite Guest Houses, nominated by the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. This program offers bed and breakfast-like

accommodations to senior guests and also helps to meet the needs of caregiving families in and around DuPage County.

Jon "Jack" Michaelson (Moline), nominated by Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Michaelson founded the Quad Cities Grandparents Who Are Raising Grandchildren Support Group, and he serves as group facilitator. He is also active in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and other community organizations.

Dr. Allen Ottens (Rockford), nominated by the Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Ottens is an associate professor of counseling at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb and helped form the Eldercare Support and Education Group and has helped the Area Agency develop supports for caregivers. He is a strong advocate for those with mental health services, including those to help Alzheimer patients.

Eleanor Painter (Mt. Carmel), nominated by Southeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Painter has been a caregiver to seniors, while also working full-time and raising a grandchild. She also helps seniors with the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance program.

Dominic Rossi (Palatine), nominated by Suburban Area Agency on Aging. Rossi was a leader with the Social Security Administration and now serves on the Board of Directors of the Area Agency. His service to the Agency spans 27 years. He has been a strong advocate for caregivers, having cared for a disabled sister for a lengthy time.

Chuck Scholz (Quincy), nominated by West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Scholz is mayor of Quincy and has been instrumental in developing programs to enhance the lives of elderly residents in the city. He is an advocate for seniors in housing, transportation, human rights, crime prevention and more.

Earl Spohr (Woodlawn), nominated by the Egyptian Area Agency on Aging. Spohr's "second career" is serving as a senior advocate. He is active in AARP, the Red Cross, Diabetes Association, and helps reduce crimes against seniors, helps seniors with insurance matters and often appears on TV and radio to talk about senior issues.



2001 Older
Americans
Month

Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging. The Department administers the state's Elder Abuse and Neglect Program, which has seen an increase in financial exploitation cases in recent years. Reports of financial exploitation now constitute the majority of cases reported.

B*SAFE is supported by the Department, the Illinois Bankers Association, the Illinois Community Bankers Association and TRIAD, an organization comprised of law enforcement, government entities and advocacy groups committed to the prevention of crimes against the elderly.



"We commend banks and all our B*SAFE partners for looking out for seniors in our state and putting up one more defense against this crime," Schreiber said.

The program will focus on downstate Illinois and will complement the Finance, Law and Government (FLAG) program serving the Chicago area.

Elder abuse may be reported by calling the Department's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TTY) or 1-800-279-0400 (after hours, weekends and holidays). All calls are confidential. ✧



Health

Corner

Sixth Annual Senior Life-style Expo

The Northeastern Area Agency on Aging and the Illinois Department on Aging will present the Sixth Annual Senior Life-style Expo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 5-6, 2001 at Drury Lane Theatre & Conference Center in Oakbrook Terrace.

This year, in conjunction with the Expo, a Caregiver Seminar will be at 7 p.m. The program will focus on providing critical information to today's time-stretched caregiver. For more information or to be an expo sponsor, call 312-670-EXPO (3976).

Secretary of State Launches Public Education Campaign About Organ Donation

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has launched a public education campaign with the goal of expanding the Secretary of State Organ Donor Registry to exceed the five million people who have signed up since 1992.

According to the Secretary of State, more than 5,000 people in Illinois are awaiting organ transplants.

The Secretary of State's Office has stepped up efforts to educate citizens about how to become a donor. Here's how:

- Sign the back of your Illinois driver's license or ID card
- Sign up for the Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Registry when you visit your Driver's Services facility, or by calling 1-800-210-2106, or visiting the Web site at www.cyberdriveillinois.com
- Tell your family of your decision. Hospitals need next-of-kin consent before organ/tissue donations can occur.

For more information about the program or how to promote it, contact Russ Breckenridge, Outreach Coordinator at 217-782-4658.

The Senior Citizen Medical ID Program is a new initiative co-sponsored by Mayor Richard M. Daley and City Clerk Jim Laski. The medical identification cards are free to all Chicago residents age 60 or older who want to have their medical and biographical information readily available in the event of an emergency.

Cards contain personal information (name, address, date of birth) as well as the name of an emergency contact on the front. The reverse side has information about the individuals physician, medical conditions, allergies and insurance information.

The program has been endorsed by: the Chicago Medical Society; Alzheimer's Association - Greater Chicagoland Chapter; The Foundation for Health in Aging, established by The American Geriatrics Society; Illinois State Council of Senior Citizens; A Helping Hand for the Elderly, Inc.; Christian Churches Caring; St. Bruno's Senior Citizens; Polish National Alliance Southwest Seniors and the Chicago Suburban Senior Senate. Seniors interested in receiving the free medical IDs, should call 312-744-2506 to schedule an appointment.

National Family Caregiver Support Program Update

The Illinois Department on Aging has established an internal steering committee to develop the state's implementation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

The program was made available through last year's reauthorization of the federal Older Americans Act. It means Illinois will receive \$4.7 million to expand efforts to help family caregivers with information and services.

Illinois Department on Aging staff continue to meet weekly to

work out details of the plan, which Department Director Margo E. Schreiber has described as the "centerpiece" of the Department's activities for the next two years.

The Department has begun working on a production timetable to release public information about the program, including a caregivers resource guide and other publications. A display to be used at caregiving fairs and other events, and information for the web site are also being developed.

Area Agencies on Aging are

planning locally how to implement the program. Currently, the agencies are reviewing what is available for caregivers, determining needs, requesting input from the community, and examining gaps in service. Descriptions of their visions for a local program will be submitted to the Department in the next few months.

When Area Agency plans are approved, the Department will release funding to initiate local caregiver activities. ✻



Sandra Sue Gehrs of O'Fallon is the winner of the 2001 Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant.

2001 Classic Woman Begins Reign

Sandra Sue Gehrs of O'Fallon was crowned this year's winner of the Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant, held in March in Oak Brook. The annual pageant, now in its twelfth year, is designed to showcase the health and vitality of women age 60 and older.

Gehrs, 61, is active in the Women's Church Group and Retired Seniors Volunteer Programs. She was chosen by a panel of judges who considered interview, stage presence, talent and life philosophies. During the pageant, she also performed tap dancing.

As Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman 2001, Gehrs will make appearances around the state, promoting wellness and fitness, and encouraging other adults to become involved in worthwhile activities. She will also represent Illinois in the National American Classic Woman Pageant to be held this fall in Wilmington, Delaware.

First Runner-Up was **Ellen Dick-Ferrera** of Oak Park; Second Runner-Up was **Angela Lauderback** of Arlington Heights. Jean Nielo of Wheaton was named "Ms. Congeniality."

For an application or more information about the 13th Annual Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TTY). ✻



The National Silver Haired Congress is chaired by Jeanne Tippet of Illinois, pictured here (center front) with the Illinois delegation.

National Silver Haired Congress Ranks Top Ten Senior Issues

The National Silver Haired Congress concluded its fifth annual session in March in Alexandria, Virginia, and released its top ten resolutions. The 88 Silver Senators and 148 Silver Representatives stated that the following are priority resolutions:

1. Protect and improve Social Security
2. Ensure affordable prescription drugs
3. Eliminate federal income tax from Social Security benefits
4. Voluntary and affordable prescription drug coverage for Medicare
5. Appropriations for Alzheimer's disease
6. Geriatric training for medical students and other health care professionals
7. Repeal the Government Pension Offset Provision of the Social Security Act
8. Tax Incentives for Long-Term Care Insurance
9. Criminal Background Checks

10. Surplus to Reduce Debt.

Jeanne Tippet, a Silver Representative from Springfield, Illinois, is Chairman of the non-partisan, grassroots model legislature which began in 1994. The Silver Haired Congress allows seniors to experience a legislative process under rules similar to what happens in the United States Senate and House.

Illinois' delegation included State Chairman and Silver Senator **Helen Heyrman** of Evanston; Former Director of the Illinois Department on Aging and Silver Senator **Maralee Lindley** of Springfield; and the following Silver Representatives: **Audria Huntington** of Chicago; **Alma M. Reed** of Chicago; **Diane Saunders** of Downers Grove; **Dr. Aldo F. Pedroso** of Chicago; **Anne Marie McCall** of Des Plaines; **Shirley Swanson** of Winfield; **Ruth Lake** of Oak Park; **Tom Curin** of Rolling Meadows; **Don Heyrman** of Evanston; **Patricia Taylor** of Northbrook; **Harold Scholle** of

Naperville; **Ruth Hill** of O'Fallon; **Ginnie Boyle** of Naperville; **Identa Austin** of Yorkville; **Rose Gates** of Danville; **Dr. Joseph Orthoefer** of Rockford; **Robert Lautzenhiser** of Princeton; **Charles Crowder** of Flora, and **Dr. Ed DuVivier** of Godfrey. Alternate Delegates were **Carol L. Lepert** of Batavia; **Dr. Eleanor A. Ryan** of Clarendon Hills, and **Kathryn Timmes** of Peoria.

"The number of delegates attending this session increased from previous sessions. I thank each and everyone around the country who dedicated their time and energy to make this a successful and productive session," Tippet said. ✚

¡Buenas Noticias para los Ancianos!

Now available in Spanish are flyers and posters for the **Circuit Breaker / Pharmaceutical Assistance Program**.

For copies call your local Area Agency on Aging or the Illinois Department on Aging's **Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966** (Voice & TTY)



George H. Ryan Governor Margo E. Schreiber Director

Seniors Lose Strong Advocate

Jeanne Flynn, who enjoyed a remarkable political career in state government stretching back to the 1960's, died from complications of pneumonia on March 31 in Springfield. She was 56.

Flynn was director of legislative affairs under Secretary of State Alan Dixon, helped Jim Edgar's transition into the secretary of state's office, and remained with Edgar to head up efforts to add state programs for senior citizens. She also led intergenerational outreach efforts for the Illinois State Library and developed programs for the disabled and an oral history project with veterans of World War II.

"She worked tirelessly as a public servant and senior citizen advocate," said Margo Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging. "The Department feels as though it has lost a close friend and someone who truly had the best interests of seniors at heart. She leaves a powerful legacy of service." ✧



Intergenerational Week is May 13-19, 2001

Intergenerational Teleconference Unites Five Generations

A statewide satellite teleconference will be held May 16, 2001 to promote dialogue among five generations and emphasize the need to help family caregivers.

The teleconference, titled "Intergenerational Dialogue: A Tool for Solving Problems," will feature Dr. James Gambone, a national authority on the benefits of intergenerational communication.



Dr. James Gambone

It will originate from Springfield and will be broadcast in Benton, Bloomington, Bourbonnais, Champaign, Chicago, Edwardsville, Effingham, Grayslake, Moline, Rockford, Quincy, Springfield, and Yorkville.

Dr. Gambone and representatives of five living generations will discuss the characteristics of each generation, and how they may work together to address community needs. The generations range from the "G. I. Generation" — those born between 1901-1931 to the "Millennial Generation" — those born between 1982-2003.

The Illinois Department on Aging is sponsoring the event, along with University of Illinois Extension Services and the Illinois State Library. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the public is invited. To register, or for locations or more information, contact Aaron Wayne at 217-558-4165 or visit www.state.il.us/aging/home.htm. ✧

Faith-based Partnership Enjoying Success

The Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Department on Aging and four Area Agencies on Aging have teamed up to work with faith-based organizations to improve services for senior citizens.

"Too often, senior citizens are unaware of or not able to access

the information and services they need to maintain independent, active lives," said Governor George H. Ryan, when four pilot sites were announced last fall.

The Departments have since conducted trainings at the sites: Auburn Park in Chicago, East St. Louis, Peoria and Rockford.

During the first six months of the pilot project, more than 80 faith-based volunteers have been trained and more than 300 seniors have received assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Department on Aging and/or the Aging Network. ✧

Legislative Update

Making prescription drugs affordable for seniors re-emerged as a legislative issue this spring. Two bills passed through the Illinois House on March 29.

HOUSE BILL 2470 (Franks/Silverstein) would allow pharmacies to sell prescriptions to seniors at the Medicaid reimbursement rate. A companion bill, HB 2236, would allow the state to negotiate discounted prices for drugs with pharmaceutical companies, and savings would be passed on to seniors at the pharmacy. Such would be similar to creating “buying clubs.”

HOUSE BILL 5 (Daniels-Madigan/Dillard) would expand the state’s Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance program even further. Eligibility levels would be increased to \$28,000 for an individual and \$35,000 for a couple. It would also add osteoporosis medications to the list of prescriptions covered. The enactment clause of the bill was removed, however.

Other bills of note that won House approval:

HOUSE BILL 16 (Granberg) directs the Illinois Department on Aging to administer a program to provide family caregiver long-term care information and support services for family and other unpaid caregivers.

HOUSE BILL 596 (Lang/Madigan) requires the Illinois Department on Aging to establish and coordinate specified elder abuse training and education programs and establish a database of caregivers convicted of certain offenses against the elderly or disabled.

HOUSE BILL 312 (May/Link) provides that the Illinois Department on Aging’s eligibility standards for community care program services not apply to persons with assets totaling more than \$20,000.

HOUSE BILL 2438 sponsored by (Coulson/Radogno) changes the \$2,000 benefit cap per state fiscal year under the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance program to a \$2,000 benefit cap per calendar year beginning Jan. 1, 2002.

HOUSE BILL 50 (Parke/Lauzen) provides that up to ten percent of the amounts distributed by the state from tobacco settlement proceeds be directed to a clinical cancer trials program to be established by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

SENATE BILL 816: (Sullivan/Coulson) creates the Unnecessary Institutionalization Act under which persons age 60 or over and persons with disabilities could be eligible for grants or loans for modifications or assistive technology devices.

Visit the Department’s Web site at www.state.il.us/aging/legis.htm for the most comprehensive and up-to-date status on legislation. ✻

Senator Fitzgerald joins Aging Committee

U.S. Senator Peter G. Fitzgerald (R-Illinois) has been selected to serve on the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

The Committee on Aging studies issues, oversees federal programs, and investigates waste and fraud.

Fitzgerald said he would continue pushing for Social Security lock box legislation that would ban Congress from spending Social Security dollars on other government programs and expand consumer

protections for the elderly.

“Social Security is facing a solvency crisis with the nearing retirement of the baby boomers. We must take immediate steps to preserve Social Security for future retirees, and ending the practice of raiding the trust funds to pay for unrelated programs is a good place to start,” he said. “We need a Social Security lock box to protect our seniors’ retirement money.” ✻

New Report on Adult Guardianship in Illinois Released

The Illinois Guardianship Reform Project, an initiative of Equip for Equality, Inc. released a report documenting findings and recommendations of its Task Force for improving the adult guardianship system.

"Adult guardianship is everyone's issue," said Mark Heyrman, Chairperson of the Project's Task Force and a clinical professor at the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago. "By the year 2035, 25 percent of the population in this country will be elderly with the potential for physical or mental impairments and the number of non-elderly with disabilities will continue to increase due to improved survival rates of infants born with disabilities and greater life expectancy. Some of us, or our loved ones, will need a substitute decision-maker in various aspects of our daily lives."

The 150-page final report focuses on areas of concern that were revealed in nationwide research and which were expressed by the elderly and people with disabilities, family members, service providers and the general public. The report is available at www.equipforequality.org.

For more information, contact Guardianship Reform Project Manager Morris Fred, or Legislative Policy Manager, Murray Manus at 312-341-0022 or 800-537-2632, or 800-610-2779 (TTY). ✻

Information EXCHANGE

Social Security issues are closely watched by OWL National, an organization comprised of older women in Illinois.

OWL National recently co-sponsored a three-day "summit" in Washington, D.C. dedicated to sharing information about the impact of Social Security on women and how various reform proposals would affect them.

OWL Illinois' delegation to the summit included Pat Taylor of Northbrook, who is a member of the Illinois Council on Aging.

For more information about OWL Illinois, call 312-347-0011 or visit its Web site at www.owlillinois.org.

Hall of Fame Applications Ready

The Illinois Department on Aging is again seeking nominations for the 2001 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was established by the Illinois General Assembly in 1994 to honor older adults who excel in one of four separate areas of endeavor: Community Service; Education; Performance and/or Graphic Arts; and the Labor Force.

The Department will accept nominations through June 1, 2001. Candidates will be inducted into the 2001 Hall of Fame on Senior Day at the Illinois State Fair - Monday, August 13th. Call the Department's HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TTY) for nomination forms or more information.

Green Thumb searching for "Oldest Worker"

This spring, Green Thumb, Inc. launched its fourth annual search for the "Oldest Worker" in the entire country. In order to qualify, nominees must be 75 years of age or older, work at least 20 hours a week in the private or public sector and be willing to fly to Washington, D.C. later this year.

The 2001 Prime Time Awards Gala will be held September 11-15, 2001 in Washington, D.C. For more information, including how to sponsor the awards, call Green Thumb at 1-800-338-7032.

From Archery to Volleyball — Mark Your Calendars for Summer Senior Olympics

The National Senior Games to be held **July 14-28, 2001** in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is expected to have 12,000 competitors in 18 sports. Participants must have already qualified at State Qualifying Games.

The oldest competitor to date is Harley Potter, 102, of North Carolina, who competed in the 1995 Summer National Senior Games in San Antonio, Texas in the sport of golf. For more information about the games, call 1-225-929-7670 or visit www.2001natlseniorgames.org.

Trainings & Special Events

MAY: Older Americans Month

MAY 3-4: Hilton Lisle/Naperville; **Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration;**

icova2001@hotmail.com.

MAY 4 & 18: Park Inn & Conf. Ctr., Urbana; **Multi-Disciplinary Cert. Program in Long-Term Care Admn. & Mgmt.;** *U of I, Department of Family Med.;* *St. Louis U. School of Med.;* & *Millikin U.;* 888-987-2832.

MAY 10: Our Lady of Snows Dooley Ctr., Belleville; **24:** Hyatt Regency, Chicago; **Working with the Media in Good Times & Bad;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging, Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

MAY 13-19: Intergenerational Programs Week.

MAY 16: Various sites throughout Illinois (See page 8); **Intergenerational Dialogue;** *1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY).*

MAY 20-24: Hyatt Orlando, Orlando, FL; **23rd Info. & Referral Training & Education Conf.;** **Nat. Aging I & R Symposium;** *202-898-2578.*

MAY 21-22: Crowne Plaza, Springfield; **6th An. Conference on Alzheimer Disease & Related Dementias;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; SIU School of Med., Ctr. for Alzheimer Disease & Related Disorders; and Land of Lincoln Chptr., Alzheimer's Association;* *Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

MAY 23: U of I Chicago – Student Services Bldg.; **Health Promotion for Persons with Developmental Disabilities;** *U of I Chicago, Rehab. Research & Training Ctr.;* *Nat. Ctr. on Physical Activity & Disability; Ctr. on Health Promotion Research for Persons with Disabilities;* *312-413-1535.*

MAY 23: Illinois State Museum, Springfield; **Older Am. Month: Governor's Awards for Unique Achievement;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging, Cathy Houghtby 217-785-3390.*

MAY 30-31: U of I Chicago – Student Services Bldg.; **Death & Dying for Persons with Developmental Disabilities;** *U of I Chicago, Outreach Training Unit; Rehab. Research & Training Ctr. on Aging with Developmental Disabilities;* *312-413-1535.*

MAY 30-JUN 1: Hawthorn Suites, Champaign; **Ombudsman Bi-Annual Meeting;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging, Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

JUN 6-9: Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville, TN; **NANASP An. Training Conf.;** *Nat. Assoc. of Nutrition & Aging Services Programs;* *202-682-6899.*

JUN 28-JUL 1: Vancouver, British Columbia, CA; **5th Int'l Conference on Long-Term Care Case Management;** *415-974-9600.*

JUL 11: Inn of Chicago, Chicago; **18:** Holiday Inn, Collinsville; **19:** Northfield Ctr., Springfield; **Building a Positive Work Environment;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

JUL 11-13: Hawthorn Suites, Champaign; **18th An. Conf. & Cert. Training of the Illinois AIRS;** *800-338-4636.*

JUL 11-13: Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA; **9th Int'l. Intergenerational Training Institute;** *Generations Together, Univ. of Pittsburgh;* *412-648-2209.*

JUL 24-26: Holiday Inn City Centre, Chicago; **15th An. Elder Rights Conf.;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.*

AUG 10-19: Springfield; **Illinois State Fair.**

AUG 13-16: Wyndham Resort & Spa, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; **Florida Conf. on Aging 2001;** *Florida Council on Aging;* *850-222-8877.*

AUG 25-SEP 3: DuQuoin; **DuQuoin State Fair.**

SEP 11-12: Ramada Renaissance, Springfield; **Aging & Disability Best Practices Symposium;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; State-wide Independent Living Council in Illinois; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.*

SEP 13-15: Hilton Lisle/Naperville; **NASW Illinois Chapter Conf.;** *Nat. Assoc. of Social Workers;* *312-236-8308.*

SEP 19: Crowne Plaza, Springfield; **NEOWW Awards Luncheon;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging, John Geyston, 217-782-5039.* *Held in conjunction with:*

SEP 23-29: National Employ the Older Worker Week

SEP 15-OCT 15: Hispanic Heritage Month

SEP 25-26: Rend Lake Resort, Whittington; **27-28:** location TBA; **OCT 2-3 & 4-5:** Starved Rock Lodge; **11-12:** Four Points by Sheraton, Oakbrook Terrace; **18th An. Case Mgmt. Conf.;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

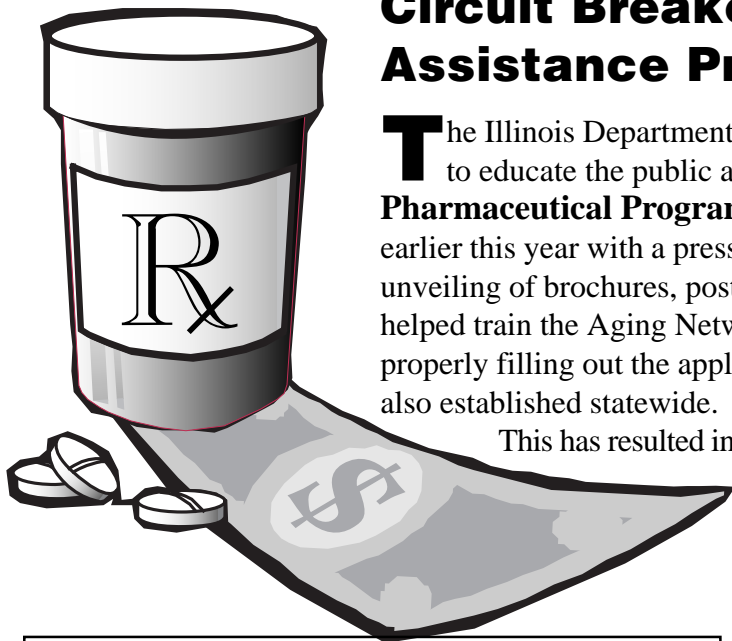
SEP 27-28: Radisson Hotel, Bloomington; **Statewide TRIAD Conference;** *Kathy Seketa-Stefancic, 217-524-1564.*

October 7-13: Residents' Rights Week.

Oct 23-24: Donald E. Stephens Conv. Ctr., Rosemont; **3rd An. Ill. Women's Health Conf.;** *Ill. Dept. of Public Health, Office of Women's Health;* *217-524-6088.*

Oct 24-25: location TBA; **5th An. Seminar for Illinois Senior Centers;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Association of Illinois Senior Centers; and Illinois Association of Park Districts;* *Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

Dec 12-14: Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, Cityfront Center, Chicago; **Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging and Ill. Dept. of Human Services; Rose Lober-Hamilton, 217-785-3377.*



Circuit Breaker / Pharmaceutical Assistance Program Update

The Illinois Department on Aging and the Aging Network's outreach campaign to educate the public about the expansion of the **Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Program** has worked effectively. The campaign was launched earlier this year with a press conference with Governor George Ryan and the unveiling of brochures, posters and other materials. In addition, the Department helped train the Aging Network on how to assist seniors and their caregivers in properly filling out the applications. Senior Information and Assistance Sites were also established statewide.

This has resulted in phenomenal response. In January and February alone:

- **132,222** seniors throughout the state received information and/or an application for the program
- **28,076** seniors have received in-person assistance
- Nearly **2,000** individuals in the Aging Network attended training sessions about the changes
- **37,594** individuals attended educational programs and seminars about the changes

In addition, the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine has responded to **12,520** inquiries about Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance from January through March. HelpLine staff mailed out nearly 8,000 applications in those months.

Governor
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Deputy Director
Lynda Ganzer

Deputy Director
Nancy Nelson

Communications
Director
Jan Costello

Communications
Assistant
Maureen Squires

Communications
Specialist
Daisy Langston Juarez

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Please direct all communication to:

Jan Costello
Illinois Department on Aging
421 East Capitol Ave., #100
Springfield, IL 62701-1789.

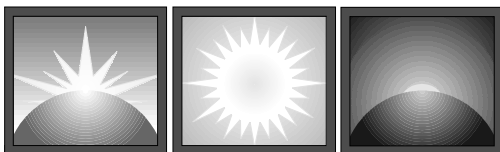
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The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TTY).

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